



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

## Press Release

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### **Cal/EPA Officials Hold Roundtable Discussion on Governor Schwarzenegger's Strategic Growth Plan and Proposed Budget**

Fresno – California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA) Deputy Secretary Mike Wintemute and Assistant Secretary Cindy Tuck held a roundtable discussion today with local leaders on air quality aspects of the governor's Strategic Growth Plan and budget proposals. The group, which included elected officials, air regulators, and environmental advocates, met at the Council of Fresno County Governments.

"Traffic congestion and air pollution directly impact Valley residents' health and quality of life," said Cal/EPA Deputy Secretary Mike Wintemute. "The Governor's Strategic Growth Plan addresses these two important issues as part of the state's critical infrastructure need, and ensures that California has the resources to reduce air pollution as it continues to grow."

The Governor's Strategic Growth Plan includes \$1 billion in bonds, matched by \$1 billion in funding from other sources, to improve air quality. In addition, the governor's proposed budget for 2006-07 includes \$140 million for the Carl Moyer Program to replace old, dirty diesel engines with new, cleaner models. It also proposes \$7 million to get gross-polluting vehicles off the roads, \$4 million to improve air quality monitoring and enforcement efforts, and more than \$7.2 million to implement greenhouse gas emission reduction efforts.

Over the next 20 years, California's population is expected to increase by as much as 30 percent and it is estimated the state faces more than \$500 billion in infrastructure needs over that same period. Governor Schwarzenegger's Strategic Growth Plan is the first phase of a 20-year investment to meet these expected needs for Californians. The plan leverages \$68 billion dollars in bonds over the next 10 years to invest more than \$222 billion in the state's infrastructure without raising taxes.

Since the 1960s, the total number of registered vehicles in California has increased from nine million to 30 million, and the Department of Transportation expects a 35 percent increase in congestion over the next 10 years. The Governor's Strategic Growth Plan is designed to address these problems by building 1,200 miles of new highway and HOV lanes in congested areas, and adding 600 miles of mass transit. This is projected to reduce congestion nearly 20 percent over the next decade.

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